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Roger Boraas Dies

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The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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Roger Boraas Dies

On December 3, 2014, Roger S. Boraas, former chief archaeologist of the Andrews University Heshbon Expedition, died. He was 88 years old.

Roger S. Boraas was born on February 4, 1926. He grew up on a small farm in Scandia, MN where he attended a one-room school, with his mother as a teacher. After graduating from Forest Lake High School, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and later earned his BA from Gustavus Adolphus College, in St. Peter, MN. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, IL and was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1952. He served the Emanuel Lutheran Church, in Pleasantville, NY, and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, in Cleveland Heights, OH. In 1958 he was called to Upsala College in East Orange, NJ, first as a Chaplain and later as Professor of Religion until his retirement in 1991. He completed his doctoral studies in Old Testament studies and Archaeology at Drew University in Madison, NJ.

While at Drew, Boraas became a student of Lawrence Toombs, who learned the Wheeler-Kenyon method of excavation, under Kenyon's tutelage, at Jericho. When colleague Siegfried Horn, from their days together on the Shechem excavation, asked him to be his chief archaeologist at Tall Hisban, Roger instructed the workers in excavation methodology and field techniques, ensuring that proper procedures and scientific methods were carried out. He did so, working first with Horn, as Director, in 1968, 1971 and 1973, and then with Lawrence Geraty, in 1974 and 1976.

(Cont'd on p. 2)



Roger Boraas at Tall Hisban.

Later, he also worked with Suzanne Richard, at Khirbet Iskander, first as Field Director, in the 1982 Season, and then as Associate Director, in the 1984 Season. Altogether, Roger worked on 13 archaeological expeditions in Jordan, in conjunction with the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, also serving on the first Amman Center Committee, after the founding of the Center. Roger was a recipient of the P. E. MacAllister Field Archaeology Award of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), in 2005. His extensive scholarly work also included serving as associate editor of the *Harpers Bible Dictionary*, and the *Word and Witness* program of the former Lutheran Church in America.

Roger married Aina Evodia Anderson on June 22, 1948. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, enjoying music, gardening, camping, model trains, and reading. Roger and Aina have three children: Miriam (Ralston) Deffenbaugh, Marcia Boraas (Eugene Lugano), and Roger Boraas, Jr., and several grandchildren: Natalie and Carl; Elisabeth and Daniel; and Marisa and Liana; along with numerous nieces and nephews. (Miriam Deffenbaugh and Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



ASOR 2014

The 2014 annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research was held in San Diego, CA from Nov. 19-22. This year's meeting was one of the best attended, with 96 available sessions, and 447 different papers being read. The plenary session was given by Jason Ur of Harvard University on "The Renaissance of Archaeology in Iraq and Its Khurdistan Region." In connection with the meetings, a reception was held at the University of California San Diego, featuring Technology and Cyber Archaeology. As usual, the Near East Archaeological Society annual meeting was held concurrently (Nov. 19-

21), and the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature immediately after (Nov. 22-26).

A number of Madaba Plains Project members and affiliates participated in various aspects of the meeting venue as in the past. Those who chaired sessions this year included: Michael Hasel and Martin Klingbeil, with Yosef Garfinkel (Tracking the Early Judean Kingdom: From Khirbet Qeiyafa to Lachish I); Constance Gane (Archaeology of Mesopotamia); Øystein LaBianca (Archaeologists Engaging Global Challenges); and Bethany Walker and Bert de Vries (Archaeology of Islamic Society). In addition, Lawrence Geraty presided over the Madaba Plains Project Staff Consultation; Øystein LaBianca over the Committee of Archaeological Policy; Randall Younker (with Susan Ackerman) over the Members Meeting; Bethany Walker over the Consultation of Dig Directors in Jordan (with special guests Mohammad Najjar and Monther Jamhawi of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan); Randall Younker of the Membership and Outreach Committee; and Douglas Clark over the Madaba Plains Project-'Umayri Workshop.

Individual submissions were made by: Bert de Vries (Preservation and Community Engagement at Umm el-Jimal in 2014); Helen Dixon (Exploring the Social Roles of Levantine Phoenician Women); Michael Hasel (the Fourth Expedition to Lachish: History and Overview); Martin Klingbeil (The Level II Destruction of Nebuchadnezzar: Area A Excavations at Lachish); Maria Elena Ronza (Social Engagement in Archaeology: The Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resources Management Initiative); Gerald Klingbeil (Between Innovative and Traditionalizing Forces: Material Culture, Khirbet Qeiyafa, and Libations in the Biblical World); Douglas Clark, Kent Bramlett, and Jehad Haroun (The 2014 Excavations of the Madaba Plains Project at Tall al-'Umayri, Jordan); S. Thomas Parker (The 2014 Season of the Petra North Ridge Church Project); Larry Herr (The Edomite Highland Pottery from the Last Three Burton MacDonald Surveys);



Dr. Monther Jamhawi, Director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

Monique Vincent, Douglas Clark and Matthew Vincent (Bringing Color to the Blind: A Scientist's Perspective on Measuring the Color of Objects); Chang-Ho Ji (All Roads Lead to 'Ataruz: Excavations and Surveys of Khirbat 'Ataruz and Its Vicinity); Øystein LaBianca (Archaeologists Engaging Global Challenges: The Way Forward); Randall Younker and Elisabeth Lesnes (The Late Bronze Collapse and the Rise of Iron Age Politics: A Comparative Analysis Between Two Iron Age Sites in Jordan and Sicily); Abelardo Rivas (Egyptian Cultic Influence in Transjordan During the Iron Age as Seen in the Use of Egyptian Elements in the Local Religion); Matthew Vincent with Neil Smith (The UCSD Cyber-Archaeology Data Framework: Unifying Disparate Data); and Matthew Grey with Jodi Magness, Shua Kisilevitz, Benjamin Gordon and Chad Spigel (The 2013 and 2014 Seasons of Excavations at Huqoq in Israel's Galilee).

The Poster session included entries by: Shellie Berglin and Christopher Chadwick (2014 Excavation Season at San Miceli: Exploring Early Christianity in Rural Roman Sicily); Ivan LaBianca (sUaV Photography Techniques and Archaeological Applications: Lessons Learned from Aerial Surveys at Tall Hisban, Umm